

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

AAPI Heritage and Culture

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Tallahassee, FL 32311

Thayumanasamy Somasundaram

somabhanu@gmail.com

Asian Coalition of Tallahassee





Overview

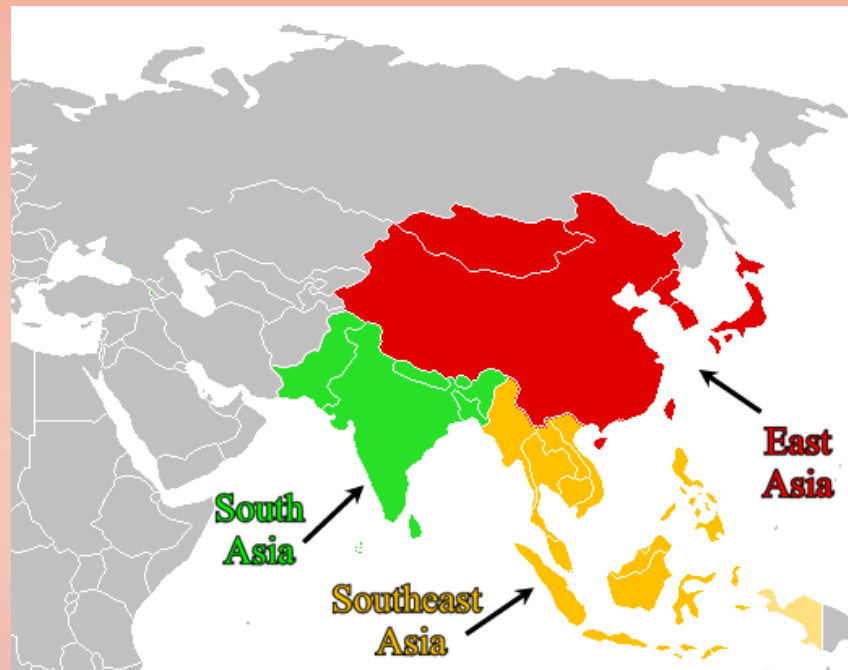
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)
- History and Current status of AAPI
- Celebration of Asian American Heritage
- Resources
- Contact

Asian Americans

Who are Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders?

- Americans who trace their ancestors to Asia
 - East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia (Indian sub continent)
 - Pacific Islanders

East Asia: 6
Southeast Asia: 12
South Asia: 7
Pacific Islanders



Asian Americans

US Census 2010 Data

- 5.2% of US population is AAPI
- 6.0% of US population (w/ others)
- 18.5 M are Asian American Pacific Islanders (308 M US Pop)
- Asian Indians, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Pls



History of Asians in America

Chinese Americans

- West Coast Gold Rush (1850-1880) *
- Involved in rail road and mining*

Japanese Americans

- Involved in agriculture and rail road§
- CA Alien Land Law 1913
- Japanese American Internment 1942

**Kitano and Daniels & Asian-nation.org*



History of Asians in America

Filipino Americans

- Philippines-American War 1899-1900 *
- Three waves: 1900s, 1930s, and 1960s

(Asian) Indian Americans

- Late 1800s agriculture and lumber*
- *Thind* decision of USSC 1923
- INA 1965 law allowed skilled persons

* *Ency American Immigration*, Ed. Ciment | § Kitano and Daniels



History of Asians in America

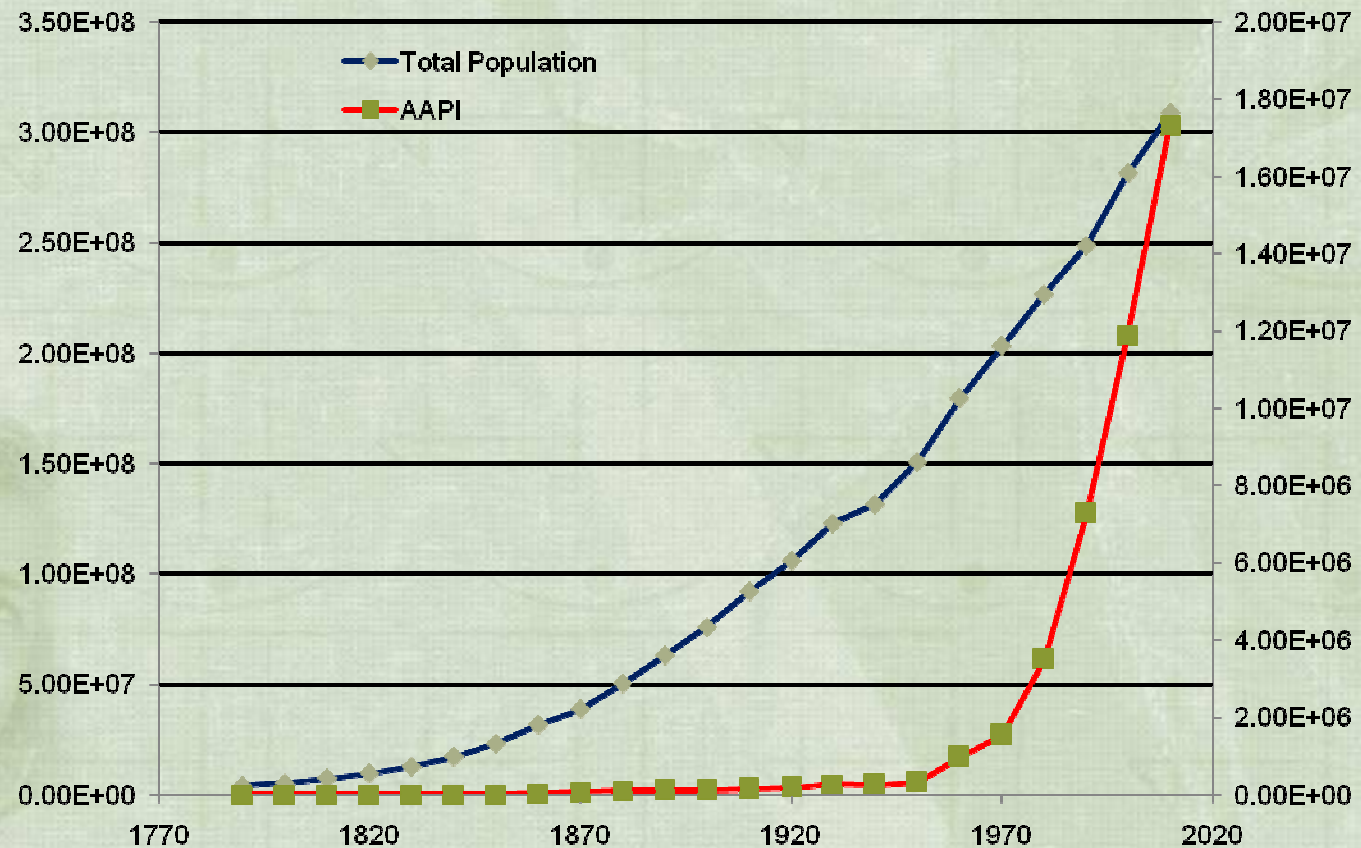
Korean & Vietnamese Americans

- Early 1900s Koreans to Hawaii*
- Korean war wave 1950s
- Vietnam War 1970s §
- Forced migration of refugees
- Laotians and Cambodians

**Ency American Immigration, Ed. Ciment | § Kitano and Daniels*

Current Status of Asians in the US

US Total and AAPI Populations



Current Status of Asians in the US *

- Asian owned businesses one of the strongest in US economy
- Generated \$507 B receipts
- Number of businesses 1.5 M
- Employed 2.8 M people
- Whole-sale & retail trade is 46.9%

* Census 2007

Tue, 05/28/13

© 2013 Thayumanasamy
Somasundaram


9

Culture

- Art
 - Visual
 - Performing
- Dance
- Martial Arts
- Music
- Language
- Literature
- Religion

Heritage

- Connections
- Community
- Cuisine
- Customs
- History
- Family
- Traditions
- Values



Asian American Heritage Month Celebration

- May was chosen for celebration
 - Historical migration of Japanese began in May 7, 1843
 - Completion of trans continental Railway in May 10, 1869 by Chinese laborers


- Theme for 2013:

Building Leadership Embracing Cultural Values and Inclusion

A woman with dark hair is hugging a young child from behind. The woman is wearing a dark top with a white checkered pattern. The child is wearing a light-colored dress with a floral pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

Rationale for Celebration

- Our society is becoming more diverse
- Understanding others instills respect for other groups and cooperation
- In global economy understanding leads to establishing better trade partners
- Learning about other culture allows one to learn new trade or skill

A woman with dark hair is hugging a young child from behind. The woman is wearing a dark top with a white checkered pattern. The child is wearing a light-colored dress with a floral pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pinkish-purple.

Asian American Heritage Month Celebration

- Asian Americans are the fastest growing minority in Florida and the US
- Asian Americans representing over 25 countries are one of the most diverse people with rich culture and heritage
- Many of them are calling FL and US their permanent home
- They create jobs, wealth, and knowledge

Resources



- Local and national Asian organizations
 - Asian Coalition of Tallahassee
 - Asian American Federation of Florida
 - www.asianpacificheritage.gov
- Invite Asian Americans to be part of public and community policy

Contact



- Contact local and national Asian organizations
 - Asian Coalition of Tallahassee
 - Asian American Federation of Florida
 - www.asianpacificheritage.gov

www.asiantlh.org

Thayumana **Somasundaram**

somabhanu@gmail.com | 850-339-2699